

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-5 as anticipated by EP 329,938, Featherstone U.S. Patent No. 879,754 and McParland U.S. Patent No. 5,878,459. As a general matter, the Applicant notes that these patents do not disclose the limitation of amended Claim 1 that a portion of the bristles surrounding the spigot extend in the direction of the spigot.

In particular, the bristles (11) in the '938 patent extend away from the spigot. Similarly, the Featherstone bristles (3) extend perpendicular to the direction of the spigot (2) and the bristles in the '459 patent extend perpendicular to the block while the spigot 34 extends at an oblique angle to the block. To clarify this distinction, the Applicant has amended Claim 1 to remove the term "generally" so that it will be understood that those bristles surrounding the spigot extend in the direction of the spigot without the significant deviation depicted in the applied art. Given the tendency of bristles to fan out, it will be understood, however, that strict parallelism with the spigot is not required. As described in the Applicant's Specification on page 6, by arranging the bristles (20) surrounding the spigot in the direction of the spigot toward the handle, the claimed brush will be able to reach the outwardly facing annular surface of the toilet bowl rim. Traditional designs, such as the applied art, are unable to effectively reach this surface. Since the applied patents do not teach this feature, the Applicant believes that these patents do not anticipate amended Claims 1-5.

For the same reasons, the Applicant believes that Claim 6 is not obvious from McParland in view of FR 472,405. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of all of the rejections. The Applicant believes that Claims 1-6 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests notice of the same.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the foregoing in more detail, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,



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